

33 MONITORING PROPOSALS

1. This section describes proposals for monitoring in relation to the sites associated with the disposal of dredged material; the Inner Gabbard and the Inner Gabbard (East).
2. It is proposed that the HHA would act as an agent to HPUK in implementing any monitoring actions arising from the FSR HRO relating to the disposal sites.

33.1 SUBTIDAL MARINE COMMUNITIES

1. It is proposed that 6 monitoring stations would be established at the Inner Gabbard (East) disposal ground in order to assess the impact of the disposal of dredged arisings on subtidal marine communities (infaunal species). These stations would be sampled in triplicate, using the same methodology as adopted for the baseline survey. Samples for the analysis of particle size distribution would also be taken from each monitoring station. It is proposed that monitoring should be undertaken 6 months, 12 months and 2 years following the completion of disposal.
2. In order to determine the value of the Inner Gabbard (East) disposal site as a habitat for Crustacea (e.g. lobsters and crabs), it is proposed that a monitoring programme should be specifically designed for such species. This could take the form of potting and would be undertaken at the same frequency as described above for the infaunal communities.
3. At the Inner Gabbard dispersive disposal site, the biological monitoring that has recently been completed following the disposal of dredged material as part of the Trinity III Terminal Extension would be repeated. This would be undertaken 6 months following the disposal of dredged material. The data would be analysed along with the previous monitoring of this site (i.e. baseline and post-Trinity III Terminal Extension disposal).
4. Prior to any monitoring being undertaken, the objectives and methodology for sampling and data analyses would be discussed and agreed with CEFAS.

33.2 BATHYMETRY

1. For both the Inner Gabbard and Inner Gabbard (East) disposal sites, a bathymetric survey would be undertaken 6 months after the disposal of the capital works; in the former case this would relate to the dispersion of the capital silts (rather than the on-going dispersion of maintenance dredged material). The aim of this would be to determine the effect of the disposal on seabed topography.
2. In the case of the Inner Gabbard disposal ground, the recently completed bathymetric survey undertaken following the disposal of dredged material from the Trinity III Terminal Extension would represent the baseline and this survey would be repeated to determine the effect of disposal. For the Inner Gabbard (East) site, no detailed bathymetric survey has been undertaken and, therefore, it is proposed that a pre-disposal survey should be undertaken in order to define the baseline. The survey should encompass the area expected to be influenced by disposal, as determined by the dispersion modelling undertaken by HR Wallingford.

3. The methodology for the bathymetric surveys would be discussed and agreed with CEFAS and the HHA prior to being undertaken.